

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN BEER REGULATIONS

1. EC DELEGATION PRESENTED NOTE TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS
SUBJECT ON APRIL 24. TEXT FOLLOWS:

THE DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO ITS EARLIER
COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF PUERTO RICO ON BEER BOTTLE SIZES
AND LABELLING.

THE DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED TO NOTE THAT THE NEW
REGULATIONS HAVE ALREADY HAD THE EFFECT OF VIRTUALLY
STOPPING EXPORTS FROM BREWERIES IN THE COMMUNITY TO
PUERTO RICO. IN IMPLEMENTING THESE REGULATIONS, THE
PUERTO RICAN CUSTOMS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE 90-DAY DELAY
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PRESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 3 (C) REFERS ONLY

TO THE VOLUME OF
CONTENTS, WHILE RULES
ON COLOUR, FORM, LETTERING AND
REGULATIONSTOPROVIDE A 90-DAY TRANSITION PERIOD (TILL
APRIL 29).

THE COMMISSION WISHESTO RENEW THE BASIC OBJECTIONS
STATED IN ITS NOTE VERBALE OF JANUARY 28, 1975. WITHOUT
IN ANY WAYRETREATING FROM THAT POSIION, THE COMMISSION
ADDS THATITCONSIDERS THE REGULATION QUITE UNACCEPTABLE
IN THAT IT FAILS TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE TRANSITION
PERIOD, WHICH AS A MINIMUM SHOULD EXPIRE NO EARLIER
THAN DECEMBER 31, 1975. FINALLY, THE COMMISSION NOTES
THAT THE PUERTO RICAN AUHORITIES, WHEN PUTTING THESE
REGULATIONS INTO EFFECT, HAVE SHOWN A REMARKABLE
DISREGARD FOR NORMAL
STANDARDS OF INERNATIONAL CONDUCT
IN TRADE MATERS.

THE DELEGATION IS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST THE
DEIARMENT OF STATETOBRING THIS MATER AGAIN TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE PUERTO RICAN AUHORITIES.

THE DELEGAION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES TAKETHE OPPORTUNITIS TO RENEW TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERAION.
END TEXT. KISSINGER

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